

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1, 2, and 4-16 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 3 to recite as follows. A marked-up copy of claim 3 indicated changes made to the claim is attached hereto.

3. (Amended) A method of treating a depressive disorder in an animal, said method comprising administering to said animal a compound having (Corticotropin Release Inhibiting Factor (CRIF) biological activity, wherein said compound is a peptidomimetic.

Please add claims 17-27 to recite as follows:

17. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said peptidomimetic comprises at least three amino acids positioned between the fourth and fifth Thyroid Releasing Hormone (TRH) peptide on a pre-pro-TRH molecule.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said peptidomimetic comprises from three to twenty-two amino acids positioned between the fourth and fifth TRH peptide on a pre-pro-TRH molecule.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said peptidomimetic comprises the sequence in SEQ ID NO:1.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said peptidomimetic comprises the sequence in SEQ ID NO:2.

21. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said peptidomimetic comprises the sequence in SEQ ID NO:3.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said peptidomimetic comprises the sequence in SEQ ID NO:4.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said peptidomimetic comprises from three to twenty-six amino acids positioned between the fourth and fifth TRH peptide on a pre-pro-TRH molecule.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said peptidomimetic comprises the sequence in SEQ ID NO:5.

25. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said depressive disorder is selected from the group consisting of major depression, minor depression, bipolar disorders, dysthymia, cyclothymia, and premenstrual syndrome.

26. (New) A method of treating a depressive disorder in an animal, said method comprising administering to said animal a compound comprising CRIF or having CRIF-like activity, wherein said compound is delivered to the brain of said animal, and wherein said depressive disorder excludes anxiety, and further wherein said compound is a peptidomimetic.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said compound is administered to said animal by a route of administration selected from the group consisting of oral, parenteral, intranasal, and central.

#### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, and 4-16 have been allowed in U.S. application number 09/366,981, filed August 4, 1999 and are therefore canceled herein. Claims 17-27 have been added herein, and they all depend from amended claim 3. Applicants submit that these claims are supported throughout the as-filed specification, for example, on page 3 and page 7 where specific CRIF fragments are recited and in allowed claims 1, 2, and 4-16. Further, CRIF peptidomimetics and methods of their use are disclosed in the specification at pages 10 and 11.

Specification pages 3, 7, and 8 have also been amended. The pages were amended to include SEQ ID NOs which correspond with the Sequence Listing provided herewith. These amendments do not constitute new matter.

Applicants respectfully and earnestly request timely examination of the above-captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

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Enclosures: Marked-up copy of the Claims as Amended  
Marked-up copy and clean copy of amended paragraphs

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